GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1649
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
PROJECT DIRECTORATE ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Project Directorate on Biological Control for pests and insects has been set up, as reported in Economic Times of August 28, 1999;

(b) if so, the allocation funds made and the targets fixed for the next three years for each crop, oil seeds, cotton, fodder;

(c) the details of incentives given to farmers during the last two years;

(d) whether the use of cow urine with Nee, Karanj, Custard apple etc. is being promoted in association with NGOs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether organic farming also reduce drastically incidence of pest/disease; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Project Directorate of Biological Control was established on 19.10.1993 at Bangalore.

(b) The allocation of funds ot PDBC made during IX Plan are Rs. 582.88 LakhsAn area of 5 to 40 hactare has been earmarked in a number of States to demonstrate the use of biocontrol agents in the Integrated Pest Management Technology for cotton, sugarcane, rice, tobacco, pulses, coconut fruits, vegetables, potato etc. (Annexure-I)

(c) Several large scale field demonstration have been carried out in farmers` fields to promote the use of bio-control agents where the biological agents are provided free of cost.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Use of cow urine as pesticide has shown some promise against few insect pests. However, there is no report where cow urine has been used with Neem, Karanj, Custard apple etc. Pesticidal property of Neem, Karanj and Custard Apple has been explored. Of these, Neem has shown promise against a number of insects, nematodes and fungi. The use of neem is being promoted as alternative to synthetic pesticides and the findings are given to NGOs for large scale use against crop pests.

(f) & (g): Organic farming in which farm yard manure, organic waste, sewage sludge, press mud and fungal or bacterial bio-control agents are used has the potential to reduce the incidence of nematode pests. However, these techniques often do not give drastic reduction in case of very high nematode population densities.

Annexure-I

Targeted ongoing demonstrations in the farmer`s field.

Year	Crop	State	Area covered (ha)
1998-1999	Cotton	Gujarat	5
		Tamilnadu	5
1999-2000 & 2000-2001	Suragcane	Punjab	20
		Maharashtra	40
	Rice	Punjab	5
		Maharashtra	5
		Tamil Nadu	5
	Tobacco	Andhra Pradesh	5
	Pulses	Uttar Pradesh	10

Coconut	Kerala	5